

NDSD Article for the Devils Lake Journal  
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It has been a busy month here at NDSD so I will get right to it.

Many of our students visited Deaf World at UND on November 24<sup>th</sup>. They visited the American Sign Language I and III classes. During the time they were at these classes, only signing was allowed. What a great way for our students and those of UND to share their signing skills. Our students watched two plays and participated in many other activities.



NDSD hosted a holiday dinner on December 5<sup>th</sup> in appreciation of those from the local community that do a lot for us over the course of the year. Government officials, state legislators, law enforcement officers and many of our good friends were in attendance. NDSD students provided entertainment and created the decorative centerpieces in art class.



Six students participated in a fund raiser for Close-Up 2010. Close-Up is a weeklong trip to Washington DC to learn about our government and tour many of the government buildings. A trip to the Capitol is one of the many highlights. For the fund raiser they made and sold pumpkin rolls. It was an enjoyable experience and the treats were very good.

Each year, the education department has conducted a Holiday service project. This year was no exception. The last few years the middle school has taken the lead with eh very successful and meaningful projects. This year, they decided to honor three retired NDSD staff members; Sonja Leonhardt, Mary Rutten, and Nicci Henke. The women were presented simple quilts thanking them for all they have done. Every student had a signed hand print on the front of each quilt. The backs were covered with the signatures of all current NDSD staff.

NDSD currently has two students involved in our work study program. Both students are seniors and are enjoying their learning experiences. Monique is doing a very good job assisting Nancy Sylling with her various office duties. Lynn painted the fire hydrants on campus and is helping Dwight Keck with various jobs in the physical plant. Businesses such as Wally's, Leever's, Taco Johns and the Fire Side Inn have participated in our work study programs in the past.



The NDSD Bulldogs lost their first basketball game of the season to the St Joe's Bulls. This is the first year that NDSD is competing as part of the Devils Lake park board. The kids enjoyed themselves and played hard. The team is coached by Julius Saylor.

Our outreach department has been very busy off campus as well. There are currently 33 children from the ages of zero to three years old enrolled in our Parent-Infant program across the state. This is a home based program that is built to each families needs and learning styles. Add to this the many training seminars and conferences, working with legislators, and designing new programs to help those in the deaf community, you can see they are a busy group.

Diane Rice, NDSD school counselor, has attended three half-day workshops this fall involving a software program called Bridges. Students at NDSD can use this program to help them explore and plan careers for their futures. The latest workshop featured how teachers and school counselors can help students improve their test scores for college entrance using a feature of this program. The Bank of North Dakota is paying the fee for North Dakota schools to use the Bridges program.



NDSD unveiled our new school seal. The seal depicts a historic view of the bridge over Driggs pond with the original dormitory in the back ground. The school motto of “Looking back with pride, looking forward with confidence” circles the image along with North Dakota School for the Deaf. Everyone that has seen the seal feels it represents us well. We are proud to display it.

All of us here at NDSD would like to wish all of those in the Lake Region a safe and happy holiday season. Please take a moment or two as we head into a new year to remember that we all have a lot to be thankful for.